



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Department of Communication Studies
IUPUI

February 3, 2015

Dr. Janice Blum
Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Education
University Graduate School

Subject: Changes to Comprehensive Exam Requirement for M.A. Program in Communication Studies

Dear Dr. Blum:

By a majority vote of the graduate faculty in the Department of Communication Studies, we propose to eliminate the comprehensive examination currently required for completion of the M.A. in Applied Communication.

At present, all M.A. students are required to complete a comprehensive *and* also complete a thesis or applied learning project (ALP). This means that we currently require all M.A. students to complete two culminating experiences (rather than one). The faculty believe that requiring both culminating experiences creates unnecessary duplication (and unnecessary work) for both students and faculty. We affirm that students can best demonstrate our program's learning outcomes through the thesis or ALP project. In addition, it's unusual in our discipline to have students complete both a thesis/ALP and complete exams, so this change will bring us in line with current practices in our field and will make our program more attractive to potential students.

Our current requirements state, "the student must pass the comprehensive examination and complete either a thesis or an applied learning project in order to complete the degree requirements."

We propose that this requirement be revised to state "the student must complete either a thesis or an applied learning project in order to complete the degree requirements."

Please let me know if I can provide additional information about this proposed change.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Bute

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